

**Listing of Claims.**

Please amend the claims as shown below by deleting the material indicated by strike-through and adding the underlined material. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid encoding Regulator of Cullins 1 (ROC1), said nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**;
  - (b) a nucleic acid which encodes a protein that forms a complex with a cullin protein and/or has ubiquitin ligase activity, wherein said nucleic acid ~~that~~ hybridizes to the complete complement of a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1** under stringent conditions defined by a wash of 50% Formamide, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 1X SSPE at 42°C, ~~wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein that forms a complex with a cullin protein and/or has ubiquitin ligase activity;~~
  - (c) a nucleic acid which encodes a protein that forms a complex with a cullin protein and/or has ubiquitin ligase activity, wherein said nucleic acid has ~~having~~ at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**, ~~wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein that forms a complex with a cullin protein and/or has ubiquitin ligase activity; and~~
  - (d) a nucleic acid that differs from the nucleic acid of (a) to (c) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a ROC1 protein consisting of the amino acid sequence given herein as **SEQ ID NO:2**.

4. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid consists of the nucleotide sequence given herein as **SEQ ID NO:1**.

5. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 1.

6. (Previously presented) A cell comprising an expression vector according to Claim 5.

7. (Currently amended) A cell ~~comprising an expression vector~~ according to Claim 6 and capable of expressing ROC1.

Claim 8-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) An antisense oligonucleotide that is 12 to 50 nucleotides in length and is completely complementary to a portion of the nucleic acid encoding ROC1 of Claim 1.

14. (Previously presented) The antisense oligonucleotide of Claim 13, wherein said oligonucleotide is DNA.

15. (Currently amended) An expression vector ~~encoding~~ capable of transcribing an antisense oligonucleotide according to Claim 13.

16. (Currently amended) A method for producing a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of **SEQ ID NO:2**, ~~or a fragment thereof~~, comprising

(a) culturing a host cell comprising an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**; and
- (ii) a nucleic acid that differs from the nucleic acid of (i) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code; and
- ~~(iii) a segment of at least consecutive 60 nucleotides of the nucleic acid of (i) or (ii) above; and~~

(b) recovering the protein from the host cell culture.

Claims 17-48 (Canceled)

49. (New) A method for producing a peptide or protein, the method comprising

(a) culturing a host cell comprising an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide consisting of a segment of at least 60 consecutive nucleotides of a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**; and
- (ii) a nucleic acid that differs from the nucleic acid of (i) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code; and

(b) recovering the peptide from the host cell culture.